

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 93

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Jo Ann Giordano

PRESENT POSITION

-Instructor of Fiber/Surface Design
at Kent State University

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: Newark, NJ, 1949

-Instructor, Cleveland Institute of
Art Continuing Education

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Fiber

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

Cranbrook Academy of Art
M.F.A., Fiber, 1988

Purdue University
M.A., Textiles, 1980

Rhode Island School of Design
B.F.A., Interior Architecture, 1971

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

- 1993 "The Fragile Environment: Artists' Reactions," Dairy Barn, Athens, OH and touring
1992 "Quilts: Contemporary Voices from the Plains," Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA
1992 "Ohio Fiber Art Invitational," Brenda Kroos Gallery, cleveland, OH
1992 "Form and Object," University of Wyoming Art Museum, Laramie, WY and touring
1991 "New Ends," Snug Harbor Cultural Arts Center, Staten Island, NY

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

- Kaiser Permanente, Bedford, OH Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN
Century Center, South Bend, IN Jack and Mary Ann Katzenmeyer, Shaker Hts., OH
Siemens Corporation, Troy, MI Landmark Associates, Washington, DC
Sony Corporation, Novi, MI

AWARDS:

- 1993 Best of Show, "The Fragile Environment: Artists' Reactions", Athens, OH
1989 Best of Show, "Michigan Fine Arts Competition", Birmingham Bloomfield Art
Association, Birmingham, MI
1986 Artist in Residence at Cummington Community for the Arts and Ragdale Foundation
1985 Fellowship for residency at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or
something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of
gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

My work in fiber reflects a need to express my personal and social concerns. Historical textiles, decorative arts, religious art and popular culture are important sources for my imagery. From these disparate sources, I synthesize a symbolic language to communicate my personal vision.

I am interested in using the decorative arts to convey content in an unexpected manner. The object which seems pleasantly "decorative" at first reveals another layer of meaning upon closer inspection. I seek to create wall hangings and garments which function as ritual objects for contemporary culture. Environmental issues have been a recurring theme in my work over the past five years.

JoAnn Giordano
13542 Cedar Road
University Heights, OH 44118

NOV 6 1990

11-2-90

Dear Mr. Hinson,

Enclosed please
find slides, resume
& statement as per
your request.

Sincerely,

JoAnn -
Giordano

RESUME

Jo Ann Giordano
13542 Cedar Road
University Heights, OH 44118
(216) 321-8245
(216) 229-0945 (work) 421-7000

EDUCATION

Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 1986-88.
M.F.A. in Fiber, 1988.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 1977-80.
M.A. in Textiles, 1980.

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, R.I., 1967-71.
B.F.A. in Interior Architecture, 1971.
Spent senior year with European Honors Program, Rome.

Workshops at: Penland School, Miami University, Arrowmont
School, School of Visual Arts, NYC and New School for
Social Research, NYC.

AWARDS & HONORS

Best of Show, "Michigan Fine Arts Competition", Birmingham
Bloomfield Art Association, Birmingham, MI, 1989. Juried
by Patterson Sims.

Artist-in-Residence at Cummington Community for the Arts,
Cummington, MA and Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL,
1986.

Awarded fellowship for Artist-in-Residence, Virginia
Center for the Creative Arts, Sweet Briar, VA, 1985.

Indiana Artist-Craftsman Award, "70th Indiana Artists
Show", Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1985.

Winner, "Indiana Artists Postcard Design Contest", 1985
and 1986.

Craftsman/Artisan Award for 1984 given by Indiana chapter
of American Society of Interior Designers.

Merit Award, "Artforms", Greater Lafayette Museum of Art,
Lafayette, IN, 1982 and 1984.

Mrs. J. Irwin Miller Award, "Hands of Man", Indianapolis
Art League, Indianapolis, IN, 1983.

Artist-in-Residence grant, Artpark, Lewiston, NY, 1983.

Purchase Award, "Michiana Regional Biennial 12", Art
Center, South Bend, IN, 1982.

First Merit Award, "Hands of Man", Indianapolis Art
League, 1981.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Self-employed studio artist, 1974-present.

Lafayette Home Hospital, Lafayette, IN, 1981-86.

Graphic Designer in Health Education Department.

Duties included design and layout for posters, flyers,
signs, newsletters and logo design and illustration.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH.
Visiting Artist in Fiber Department, 1989-present.
Taught Fiber Seminar, Fiber Elective and Beginning Surface Design and two classes through Continuing Education: Serigraphy and Design on Fabric.

Artist-in-Education, Mayfield City Schools, Mayfield Heights, OH, 1990.
Workshops in screenprinting and surface design for high school and elementary school students.

Cleveland Institute of Art Continuing Education, 1990.
BASIC Workshop Program for art teachers.
Taught workshop in surface design and screenprinting.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Rochester, MI, 1989.
Workshops in fabric printing for children and adults.

Penland School, Penland, NC, 1988.
Two week fabric printing workshop.

Gres Arte and Diseno School, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, 1987.
Two week fabric printing workshop.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Birmingham, MI, 1988-89.
Taught fabric printing classes for children and adults.

West Bloomfield Community Education, W. Bloomfield, MI 1988-89.
Adult classes in fabric printing and calligraphy.

Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN, 1979, 1981-84.
Adult classes in calligraphy and silkscreen.

Purdue Campus Arts to the Community Program, 1980-81.
Workshops in schools, libraries.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 1979-80.
Graduate Teaching Assistant responsible for two classes of two-dimensional design; Instructor for Continuing Education classes.

WORK IN
COLLECTIONS,
COMMISSIONS

Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN
Century Center, South Bend, IN
Siemens Corporation, Troy, MI
Sony Corporation, Novi, MI
Landmark Associates, Washington, D.C.
and numerous private collections.

WORK CITED
IN PUBLI-
CATIONS

Fiberarts, Vol. 13, No. 6 (published Jan. 1988), pp. 13-15. Work included in issue on "Ritual Fiber", by Pat Malarcher.

Fiberarts, Jan./Feb. 1986, p. 52.

WORK CITED
IN PUBLI-
CATIONS

The Designer, March 1985, p. 84.

Quilts: The State of an Art. West Chester, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 1985, p. 51.

Surface Design Journal, Fall 1984, pp. 16-20.
Feature article by Janet Koplos.

Attenzione, August 1984, p. 19.

New Art Examiner, June 1984, p. 22.
Review of show "Playing with Pattern".

Fiberarts Design Book II. Asheville, NC: Lark Publications, 1983, pp. 103, 143.

Fiberarts, Nov./Dec. 1983, pp. 47-49.

Metropolis, May 1983, p. 22.

Surface Design Journal, Fall 1982, p. 11 and Spring 1983, p. 20.

Fiberarts, March/April 1982, pp. 60-64.

Avery, Virginia. Quilts to Wear. New York: Scribners, 1982, pp. 39, 41, 133 color plates 38, 39.

LECTURES

Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI, 1987

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 1983

Greater Lafayette MUSEum of Art, Lafayette, IN, 1982

EXHIBITION
RECORD

Solo:

Pontiac General Hospital, Pontiac, MI, 1989.

"Playing with Pattern", Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN, 1985.

"Playing with Pattern", The Women's Building, Los Angeles, CA, 1985.

"Screen Printed Wall Hangings", Artemisia Gallery, Chicago, IL, 1984.

"Sleight of Hand", Masters Exhibition, Purdue University, 1980.

Selected Group:

1990

"Cultural Cartography", Kingswood Gallery, Cranbrook Kingswood School, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Two-person show.

"Design in Sculptural Fiber", Craft Alliance Gallery, St. Louis, MO. Invitational.

1989

Faculty Exhibition, Cleveland Institute of Art.

"Michigan Fine Arts Competition" Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Birmingham, MI.

"Quilts: Object and Inspiration", Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Rochester, MI. Invitational.

"Joint Ventures Fiber Exhibition", UAW-GM Human Resource Center, Auburn Hills, MI. Invitational.

EXHIBITION
RECORD

- 1988 "The Written Word", Oakland County Galleria, Pontiac, MI. Juried.
- "Needle Expressions '88", McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL and touring. Juried.
- "Interiors", America House Gallery, Tenafly, NJ.
- "Face to Face: Cranbrook/Mexico", Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- "Degree Show" and Summer Show", Cranbrook Museum.
- "Fiber: Five Views", One-One-Eight Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI.
- "Fiber Content", Detroit Artists Market, Detroit, MI. Juried.
- "29th Annual Mid-Michigan Show", Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, MI. Juried
- 1987 Cranbrook Fiber Department Show, Franz Meyer Museum, Mexico City, Mexico.
- "Surface Design Michigan", Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Invitational.
- "Fiber: The Next Generation", Illinois State University, Normal, IL. Invitational.
- "28th Annual Mid-Michigan Show", Midland, MI.
- "Collaboration: Cranbrook and Kashmir", Cranbrook Art Museum.
- 1986 "Photocraft", Pierce Street Gallery, Birmingham, MI.
- "Wichita National Crafts Exhibit", Wichita Art Association, Wichita, KS. Juried.
- "E.H.P. 25th Anniversary Alumni Exhibiton" Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. Juried.
- "A Woman's Place...", Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN.
- "Raku by Scott Fankenberger and Wall Hangings by Jo Ann Giordano", Contemporary Crafts Gallery, Louisville, KY.
- 1985 "Quilt National '85", Dairy Barn, Athens, OH and touring.
- "70th Indiana Artists Show", Indianapolis Museum of Art. Juried.
- "For the Floor", American Craft Museum, New York NY and touring. Invitational.
- "On and Off the Wall", Esther Saks Gallery, Chicago, IL.
- 1984 "Silkworks", Gayle Willson Gallery, Southhampton, NY.
- "Country of Origin, USA: A Decade of Contemporary Rugs", Textile Museum, Washington, D.C. and touring. Invit.
- "Artforms", Greater Lafayette Museum of Art. Juried.
- "Surfaces", Gayle Willson Galley, Southhampton, NY.
- 1983 "Pattern: An Exhibition of the Decorated Surface", American Crafts Museum, New York, NY. Invitational.

EXHIBITION
RECORD

1982

"Hands of Man", Indianapolis Art League, Indianapolis, IN.

"69th Indiana Artists Show", Indianapolis Museum of Art.

"National Jigsaw Puzzle Design Contest", Dairy Barn, Athens, OH. One of 50 national finalists.

"Ceremonial Garments", High Point Arts Council, High Point, NC. Juried.

"Artforms", Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN. Juried.

"Michiana Regional Biennial 12", Art Center, South Bend, IN.

"Women Artists: Indiana/New York Connection", Snite Gallery, Notre Dame, IN. Invitational.

1981

"Hands of Man", Indianapolis Art League.

"Marietta College Crafts National", Marietta College, Marietta, OH. Juried.

Addenda:

1990

"Present Generation: New Workings in Fiber", Great Northern Corporate Center Gallery, Cleveland, OH.

"The Day of the Dead: A Celebration", Creative Arts Center, Pontiac, MI. Curator and exhibiting artist.

"Threads", America House Gallery, Piermont, NY.

"On Fiber: Human Conditions", UNL Gallery of Department of Art and Art History, University of Nebraska/Lincoln, Lincoln, NE. Three-person show.

"Common Ground", Sybaris Gallery, Royal Oak, MI.

Jo Ann Giordano - Statement

The focus of my work has been the development of a language of symbols to express my personal and social concerns. Pattern and a love of the decorative arts are fundamental to my imagery. Historical sources often form the basis for my investigations.

Social commentary and humor have been recurring themes in my work. I am interested in using the decorative arts to convey content in an unexpected manner. The object which seems pleasantly decorative at first glance reveals another layer of meaning upon closer inspection.

Screen printing lends itself to repeated images, the essence of pattern. Photosilkscreen is a process suited to my need to juxtapose "found" images from diverse sources and transfer them to cloth. I respond to the softness and tactility of cloth. Quilting and embroidery are techniques I sometimes use to enhance the surface of the cloth.

The garment as ritual object is the subject of my recent work. Historical textiles, such as ecclesiastical vestments and Turkish talismanic robes inspire me to create similar garments for contemporary society. The power of clothing to transform the wearer interests me. Robes for priests, kings or shamans reinforce the individual's power; talismanic garments protect the wearer from evil forces. I seek to reinterpret, in contemporary language, the spirit behind these magical garments.